The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

A Comprehensive Historical and Legal Bibliography, 1963–1979

Compiled by DeLloyd J. Guth and David R. Wrone

A nation was shattered and a shadow cast across a generation by the events in Dallas on November 22, 1963. The assassination of John F. Kennedy has been a source of puzzlement, controversy, and ultimately cynicism among America's public and its leaders alike for nearly two decades. No one knows what really happened; in this atmosphere of ignorance, wildly conflicting theories have circulated. Now there is a comprehensive research guide to every kind of information about this national tragedy. This important book will permit scholars and average citizens to investigate fully any facet of the assassination, and to make their own informed search for the truth.

This unique bibliography begins with an extended introductory essay, based on original research, which surveys and classifies assassination literature, then explores the controversies surrounding the event and the issues raised by subsequent investigations. Primary sources are listed first in the bibliography proper. Archival collections, including FBI and CIA repositories, along with judicial records and photographic evidence are all indexed. A special case-brief summary of Freedom of Information Act prosecutions to obtain evidence about the murder is included, as well as chronologies of the assassination and of Lee Harvey Oswald's life, with new maps illustrating Oswald's activities in Dallas and New Orleans.

Coverage of secondary literature contains exhaustive lists of English and foreign language books and articles on the assassination and on such related topics as the Ruby trial and the surviving Kennedys. The book ends with a unique chronological catalogue of all reports in *The New York Times* about the Kennedy assassination from 1963 through 1978.

Comprehensive indices enhance the usefulness of this remarkable book. Every library in America should have this important resource in its collection.

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Presidential Secrecy and Deception

Beyond the Power to Persuade

by John M. Orman

A few years ago, it was fashionable to talk about a "credibility gap" between the public statements of the president, and the secret actions, military and otherwise, that were carried out at his command. We now know that, during the past two decades, American presidents have involved the United States in attempted assassination, organized coups, and secret wars, all without informing the public or even congressional leaders. Why were these actions taken? Why were they permitted? What has been their cost in lost prestige and lost confidence in the presidency?

Presidential Secrecy and Deception is a coherent, analytical examination of the highly charged issue of secret presidential action. Four examples of deceptive programs, one from each of the past four administrations, are explored in detail: the Kennedy administration's involvement in plots to eliminate Fidel Castro, President Johnson's secret ground and air war in Laos, the Nixon administration's program to depose Chile's Salvador Allende, and the Ford administration's involvement in Angola. John M. Orman, however, does more than describe these little understood events. Using a framework that considers the personalities involved, bureaucratic influences, individual pragmatic considerations, and the effects of institutional constraints, he analyzes *why* each one occurred.

Orman then suggests another framework, one of values, to determine when a president should be permitted to abandon his "power to persuade" and take matters into his own hands: *not* when a proposed action is illegal or unethical, *not* just because "other nations do it," *not* when a more open action will suffice. These strict guidelines will be a blueprint for congressional action to curb abuse of presidential power in the future.

CONTENTS—Secrecy, Deception, and Presidential Power: John F. Kennedy to Gerald R. Ford • The Presidential Secrecy System • Setting the New Parameters for the Secret Presidency: John F. Kennedy and Covert Leadership • Bureaucratic Secrecy: Lyndon Johnson • The Secret Presidency Out of Control: Richard Nixon • Gerald Ford: The End of the Secret Presidency • Justifiability of Secret and Deceptive Actions • Secrecy, Deception, and Presidential Power in a System of Democratic Accountability • Appendix • Selected Bibliography • Index

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